

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



For Immediate Release: Aug. 26, 2004
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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
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*** Public Notice ***

Workers at DeKalb County's Invisible Technologies Inc. receive federal aid

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of DeKalb County's Invisible Technologies Inc. have qualified for federal Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country. Located in Garrett, the facility manufactured pet containment equipment.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and it must be approved before benefits can be released. A petition was filed by a company official August 4, 2004, on behalf of the workers.

Upon its completion, the USDOL investigation found that imminent layoffs at the facility are due to a shifts in production to China of products that are like or directly competitive with those produced in Garrett and an increase in imports has or will likely occur. With the ruling, any employee who was totally or partially separated from employment on or after August 2, 2003 through two years from the date of certification is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the USDOL issued a certification for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance for separated older workers at Invisible Technologies Inc. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits, or a wage subsidy of 50 percent of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Information sessions for workers on how to apply for TAA, and for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance are currently being planned and will be announced at a later date. Eligible parties may also contact Jim Rinehart at the Auburn WorkOne Center at 260/ 642-4981 (ext. 275) or visit any WorkOne Center for more information.

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